



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY PLANNING, HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT
Neighborhood Services Division

Courthouse Plaza One 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 700 Arlington, VA 22201
TEL 703.228.3830 FAX 703.228.3834 www.arlingtonva.us

DRAFT

MINUTES OF THE HISTORICAL AFFAIRS AND LANDMARK REVIEW BOARD

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

2100 Clarendon Boulevard

Lobby Rooms Cherry and Dogwood

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sarah Afragola
Charles Craig
Robert Dudka
Sarah Garner
Carmela Hamm
Gerry Laporte
Joan Lawrence, Chairman
Sara Steinberger
Andrew Wenchel

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Omari Davis
Richard Woodruff, Vice Chairman
Mark Turnbull

STAFF: Cynthia Liccese-Torres, Historic Preservation Coordinator
Serena Bolliger, Historic Preservation Specialist

ROLL CALL & CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Ms. Liccese-Torres called the roll and determined there was a quorum. The Chairman welcomed new member Sarah Afragola and virtually introduced the other new appointee Omari Davis. Mr. Dudka inquired about the interview process for HALRB candidates. The Chairman explained that as HALRB liaison, County Board member Vihstadt now holds interviews with interested HALRB candidates.

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 20, 2018, MEETING MINUTES

The Chairman called for any changes to the June 20, 2018, draft meeting minutes. The Chairman noted two changes: a spelling error and a clarification both on page 5; she asked that 'equally' be added to the sentence, "When there are architectural materials available that the HALRB finds to be equally architecturally compatible, then cost can be a factor for consideration." The Chairman encouraged the board members to read the draft minutes before each meeting. Ms. Garner moved to approve the draft minutes and Ms. Steinberger seconded the motion. The motion passed, 8-0-1, with Ms. Hamm abstaining.

PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS (CoAs)

The Chairman stated there were two items on the Consent Agenda:

1. Melissa & Michael Paul
2911 22nd Street North
CoA 18-11 (HP1800027)
Maywood Historic District
Request to install a cloth awning, replace an attic vent with a window, replace black iron handrails with wood handrails, and remove two small brick patios. All of the proposed work would be located on the rear elevation or yard.

2. Sean & Kelly Handerhan
3301 21st Avenue North
CoA 18-12 (HP1800028)
Maywood Historic District
Request to replace the three-tab asphalt shingle roof with an architectural asphalt shingle roof.

The Chairman called for a motion on the Consent Agenda. Ms. Steinberger moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Laporte seconded and the motion passed unanimously, 9-0-0.

The Chairman asked for comments on the three Administrative CoAs (ACoA):

1. John Bradley Reese
3415 21st Avenue North
ACoA 18-10 (HP1800025)
Maywood Historic District
Request to install a colonial gothic picket fence and privacy fence.

2. Jason & Amy Cody
1728 North Rhodes Street #280
ACoA 18-11 (HP1800026)
Colonial Village Historic District
Request to install seven windows.

3. Gail Perfetti
2907 23rd Street North
ACoA 18-12 (HP1800030)
Maywood Historic District
Request to install an a/c heat pump on the rear of the property.

Ms. Liccese-Torres noted that Mr. Liebertz processed all of these ACoAs and found them in keeping with their respective design guidelines. The Chairman complimented the fence at 3415 21st Avenue North and said it was a credit to the neighborhood.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

The Chairman stated there was one CoA on the Discussion Agenda:

1. Jessie Muse Al Amin
2415 Shirlington Road
CoA 18-13 (HP1800029)
Green Valley Pharmacy Historic District
Request to remove the non-historic false, wood-shingle mansard roof and large tree in rear.

Mr. Ibrahim Al Amin represented the owners of 2415 Shirlington Road. Ms. Bolliger provided the staff report which supported the applicant's request to remove the faux mansard roof because it was not original to the building; its removal had been included in the design guidelines as a possible change to bring the building closer to its historic appearance. Ms. Bolliger stated she would monitor the removal to ensure that the façade behind the roof was treated properly and that any repairs would be completed with compatible and appropriate materials. Ms. Bolliger discussed the American Elm tree in the rear of the property, which had been deemed healthy by the County Arborist. However, the tree was not part of the commercial landscape and was growing close enough to the building to be considered a future hazard for building stability. Staff recommended removal of the tree.

Mr. Dudka agreed with the staff report, explaining that the elm was a 'volunteer tree' and could be removed. Mr. Dudka also supported the idea of bringing the historic pharmacy closer to its original look, with careful repair of the brick and stucco relief. He further noted that the current signage would be incompatible with the restored façade and suggested returning to signage in keeping with the building's original construction. Ms. Liccese-Torres inquired as to whether Mr. Al Amin would be retaining the signage for historic value and mentioned that this was the first CoA request for this local historic district. Mr. Al Amin explained that he hoped to return to a more classic image of the building.

The Chairman checked to make sure that the tree removal would be done by professionals. Mr. Al Amin explained that while the roof removal would be fairly immediate, the tree removal was projected for a few months later. Ms. Liccese-Torres explained that the approved CoA would be valid for one year, so as long as the work began within a year, no new CoA would be required. The Chairman recommended hiring professionals to remove the poison ivy.

The Chairman asked for any questions. Ms. Steinberger asked for clarification of a 'volunteer tree.' The Chairman moved to approve the CoA. Mr. Laporte seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman double-checked the agenda to confirm that the Department of Parks and Recreation's request for a naming had been postponed. Ms. Liccese-Torres confirmed that Parks staff asked that this item be heard by the HALRB in August instead.

REPORTS OF THE CHAIRMAN, STANDING COMMITTEES, AND STAFFStaff and Other Reports: WWI Task Force update; Staffing

Ms. Liccese-Torres introduced Dr. Allison Finkelstein, Chairman of the County's WWI Commemoration Task Force, who was present for the discussion of the first draft of a marker currently being designed about the history of the American Legion Memorial in downtown Clarendon. Ms. Liccese-Torres explained that this item was not an official agenda item since the draft is still very much a work in progress. Staff, however, wanted to collect initial HALRB reactions to incorporate them into the next draft. Ms. Liccese-Torres explained that the goal was to present a refined version of this marker to both the WWI Task Force and the HALRB in August. She said a second draft version would be e-mailed to both groups in the subsequent weeks to solicit additional feedback before the August meetings.

Dr. Finkelstein explained the goals for the marker project -- to grow the Memorial space as a 'place of memory' and to tell the history of Arlington and Arlington's service members through the history of the conflicts represented on the War Memorial. Ms. Liccese-Torres explained that staff's initial vision for the markers was to have one stand-alone marker depicting the Memorial's history, plus have five other markers grouped together and addressing WWI, WW2, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Mr. Craig asked about the future location of the markers. Ms. Liccese-Torres responded that the exact locations are still to be determined in collaboration with the American Legion and the County's Parks Department so that they are placed sensitively in a space that already has a lot of landscaping, hardscaping, utilities, etc. Mr. Laporte inquired about funding for the project. Dr. Finkelstein explained that the WWI Task Force had been raising money; she believed about \$18,000 had been raised so far for the construction of the markers. Ms. Liccese-Torres mentioned a suggestion from the American Legion to set a maintenance fund aside that could be used in the future in case repairs were needed. Dr. Finkelstein stated that the WWI Task Force was still accepting funds for the marker project.

Mr. Craig asked for clarification on whether the HALRB would receive revised drafts in the coming weeks, and Ms. Liccese-Torres replied yes. Mr. Laporte stated that he expected there to be more conversation about the content of the new marker as well as the segregated names on the Memorial's WWI plaque. Ms. Liccese-Torres explained that conversations were ongoing with County staff about how best to contextualize the segregated plaque. Both Ms. Liccese-Torres and Dr. Finkelstein explained that the forthcoming WWI marker text would provide more historic context. Ms. Liccese-Torres said that the draft WWI marker would be e-mailed to the HALRB before the next HALRB meeting.

The Chairman asked if what was being presented this evening was an overview of all the proposed markers. Dr. Finkelstein said no, that this draft marker being discussed tonight was specifically about the history of the Clarendon War Memorial; the subsequent markers would have more context and history on Arlington at those respective times, as well as discrimination and segregation in the military. Dr. Finkelstein further explained that given the range of their

chronological coverage, the markers likely would offer an overview of 20th century American history through the lens of Arlington.

Ms. Steinberger asked for a clarification on the location of the Memorial when it was returned [in 1986] to the proximity of its original Clarendon location. Ms. Steinberger further remarked that ceremonies were held at the Memorial annually and that it was a site of memory every day. Ms. Steinberger commented that she liked the color scheme.

Ms. Bolliger commented that the photograph in the background was a period image of Fort Myer and that a caption was forthcoming.

Ms. Liccese-Torres asked for comments on the ‘We Remember’ text in the background and the background image itself. Dr. Finkelstein indicated that using background photos did not work well in some projects she has worked on. Mr. Dudka said he appreciated the context of the Fort Myer photo, but thought the ‘We Remember’ text should be removed. Ms. Steinberger agreed. Mr. Dudka asked about the close crop of the image in the lower right corner and whether it could be resized to include the entire image. The Chairman asked whether anyone felt strongly that the ‘We Remember’ text should be kept and possibly moved. Ms. Liccese-Torres said that staff could play with the location.

Ms. Steinberger asked about the redundancy within the ‘American Legion Memorial Monument’ title. Ms. Bolliger explained that it was a reference to 1931 newspaper articles describing the original dedication of the Memorial; however, American Legion Post 139 suggested removing either Memorial or Monument from the title to simplify it.

Mr. Dudka commented that the overlap of the title onto the image band was jarring and that if one word was removed from the title, then maybe ‘We Remember’ could be moved. Mr. Dudka also noted that the trough in the middle of the M’s in the title font did not touch the bottom of the type line.

Ms. Afragola thought that the design was not following its own rules- for example having white and black text on the same background and the alignment of ‘We Remember.’ She also commented that all the bullet points on the left side should be the same color. Mr. Craig agreed that the bullets should be the same color because it was confusing otherwise.

Ms. Garner noted that the different tones of the images (gray scale and sepia) were jarring and should be the same. She recommended gray-scaling all of the images. Many members agreed. Mr. Craig said he found the color difference acceptable since the photo was likely to originally have been in sepia tone, and the newspaper in gray scale; however, he thought it would be inauthentic to convert the gray scale image to sepia, and many concurred.

Ms. Hamm suggested that if ‘We Remember’ was not kept, then it was best to maintain the word ‘Memorial’ in the title. Dr. Finkelstein agreed that this was also the suggestion of the American Legion. Mr. Dudka noted that it was described as both a Memorial and a monument in the text; when Memorial was used it was capitalized, and then ‘monument’ was lowercase. He recommended that the text remain consistent, using Memorial or monument.

Ms. Liccese-Torres said that another draft of the marker would be sent out the following week and incorporating the graphic design and text comments. Additional follow up comments could be emailed to Ms. Liccese-Torres and Ms. Bolliger. Dr. Finkelstein thanked the HALRB for their time and offered her contact information via the staff.

The Chairman mentioned volunteer staffing opportunities at the upcoming Arlington County Fair to be held August 15-19 at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. Ms. Steinberger said she would be staffing the WWI Task Force booth since the Task Force had been able to secure the state's Profiles of Honor mobile bus tour for the fair and it would require a lot of hands-on attention. The Chairman offered to send more information about volunteering and encouraged board members to volunteer whatever time they could. Mr. Craig asked if a signup sheet would be circulated to ensure that time was evenly staffed. The Chairman and Ms. Steinberger informed the group that only the exterior would be open on Wednesday and Thursday nights and the full fair [with the interior booths] would open Friday afternoon.

Ms. Liccese-Torres provided updates on the Historic Preservation Program recruitment process to fill Mr. Liebertz's recently vacated position. She announced that there were 120 applications received and that the process of scheduling interviews had begun.

Ms. Hamm gave an update on upcoming Black Heritage Museum of Arlington (BHMA) events, including:

- A September 14 panel discussion on the desegregation of Arlington schools via scholastic sports in collaboration with the Arlington Historical Society and Marymount University. Reggie Harrison agreed to be the moderator;
- A September 26 joint event/lecture with the WWI Task Force and Alexandria's Black History Museum on African American Service Men in WW1.
- An October 9 event honoring the centennial of Fire Station 8.

Ms. Liccese-Torres asked whether the BHMA or the Arlington Historical Society had had any conversations about the upcoming 60th anniversary of the desegregation of Stratford School [February 2019]. Ms. Hamm explained that the September 14 panel discussion would kick that off and begin a series of events leading into next year. Ms. Liccese-Torres offered to reach out to Arlington Public Schools (APS) to discuss honoring the 60th anniversary since it had been a point of interest when Stratford was locally designated in 2016. Mr. Craig said that it was his recollection that the School Board set aside \$250,000 for a physical commemoration of the integration. The Chairman brought up the idea of applying for a grant. Ms. Liccese-Torres explained that the HP program and APS recently had submitted a letter of intent to the National Trust for Historic Preservation for a newly created African American grant program, but had not been selected. Staff has not sought out additional funding. The Chairman mentioned seeking more corporate funding. Ms. Liccese-Torres said she would reach out to APS to ask about the status of the commemoration process.

Ms. Hamm commented that Congress approved setting aside 1/10th of an acre of land for the Freedman's Village memorial to be erected near Arlington Cemetery. She said that the Senate would still have to vote on the matter. Ms. Hamm mentioned that the BHMA applied for a

National Endowment for the Humanities grant called Our Common Heritage for erecting video kiosks around the County to recount oral histories about the civil rights movement in Arlington.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.